

LEGIONNAIRE 560

Home Port of the U.S.S. Liberty



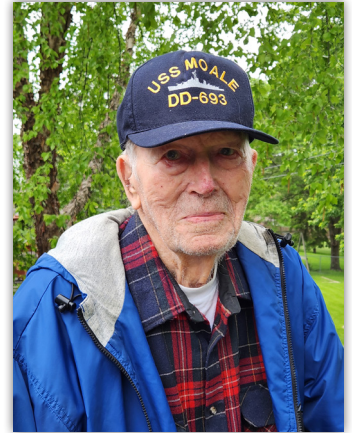
JAN. 2025

POST 560 VETERAN OF THE MONTH!

To start off 2025 we are honored to highlight the **last surviving Charter Member of Kriesel-Jacobsen Post 560 – Richard “Dick” Nelson**. Richard turns 100 years old on 01-January-2025, and has been a member of The American Legion for 77 years. Congratulations and HAPPY BIRTHDAY Dick. It is our privilege to honor you as Veteran Of The Month.

Richard and his wife Merlyn have 3 children, along with grand and great-grandchildren. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school (Elk River class of 1942) and the first to graduate from college (University of Minnesota earning a B.S. degree). He was on the U of M football team, and he was a Big Ten wrestling champion in 1944 and 1945.

Richard earned his commission in the US Naval Reserve during his time at the U of M as he was a midshipman in the ROTC. He trained as a Gunnery Officer and qualified as Senior Watch Officer while at sea. He went to Refresher Gunnery school upon being recalled into service during the Korean War. Richard rose to the rank of Lieutenant in the Navy (that would be a Captain to you Army and Air Force folks). He was stationed aboard the USS O’Neill (DE-188 Destroyer escort in WWII), and USS Moale (DD-693 Destroyer in Korea). Richard earned many ribbons, medals, and battle stars while in the Navy.



Some things Richard liked about serving in the Navy were crossing the equator and passing through both the Panama Canal and the Suez Canal. He also enjoyed having the opportunity to explore different ports in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. On the other side of that coin, a couple of things Richard didn’t like were all of the commissioned protocols and requirements and formalities, and the rancid food they were served after being at sea for long stretches.

A couple of stories Richard shared were:

1. While serving on the USS O’Neil in the forward area during the invasion of Japan, his ship was credited with destroying 2 kamikaze planes. Then a kamikaze hit his ship, making a hole in both the starboard and port hulls. His well-trained crew members rallied to keep the ship afloat so they could make it to the Philippines for repairs. The pharmacist on board effectively handled the wounded and dead after the attack.
2. While serving on the USS Moale during the Korean War, which also went to the Forward Area, one sailor arrived with a huge computer that had just been designed to use with the onboard weapon systems. The training of the crew and coordination of all the weapons on board was impressive - torpedoes, radar, sonar, depth charges, 20mm and 40mm anti-aircraft guns, and 3” and 5” batteries.

On returning home from his service in 1953, Richard built homes in the Minneapolis area. He later moved from building houses to buying farmland and planting Christmas trees. When Nan Conifer came up for sale, he bought it. This expanded into the current Nelson Nursery. By his estimation he planed over 1 million trees during his career. Richard became active in many areas including real estate development in Minnesota, oil drilling in Kansas, and he was a director of the First National Bank of Elk River for over 40 years. He also served on the Zimmerman Council.

Richard has always enjoyed fishing and hunting, especially deer, ducks, and geese. He had an opportunity to travel to Sweden, where his father came from, and met some of his cousins while there and was able to go moose hunting with them. He carved fishing decoys for many years. In the past decade Richard has published two books of memoirs, and he still enjoys writing and painting with acrylics.

One last comment Richard wanted to share with us was, **“I am proud to be a Legionnaire and have always been impressed with how the leadership of our Post 560 has been able to do so many fine things for their members, our community, and our country.”**



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. I'd like to start out by recognizing what an amazing turnout we had for the Army Navy game. We couldn't have asked for a better turnout (and not just in the outcome of the game, Go Navy!!). Because of all the support and participation, we received, with the money raised during this event, we

are able to buy and donate winter coats for local kiddos at the grade schools. What an incredible thing to be a part of and help support our local community. I'd like to personally thank everyone who participated and volunteered. I'm already looking forward to next year's event! This is your friendly reminder to take a look at your membership cards. If you haven't

renewed your membership, it is now expired. As always, you can renew your membership at the Post. I recently had the opportunity to meet and visit with Briana Polhocky. Briana grew up here in Zimmerman and went on to become the very first female instructor at Top Gun. Keep an eye out on the Minnesota Legionnaire, for a full article on her.

I'm looking forward to the new year and what 2025 has in store.
Paul McCormick, Commander
paul.mccormick72@outlook.com



Greetings Legion Family!! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and the Riders wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

We've been busy preparing our next event to raise money to help our Veterans. We are having a 2nd Amendment Bingo on January 25th at the Zimmerman Fire Station and Event Center. Visit our Facebook page or see the flyers at the Post for details or to get registered. Our committee has picked out some awesome prizes. We're looking forward to a great day!!

We are having our annual Riders' Dinner on January 18th. Following the dinner many of us will be upstairs at the Post. Doc will be playing, so if you're around join us for some fun.

Thank you all again for your support! God bless you all and God bless America. - Loren



Hello and Greetings from the SAL! I am going to believe that the New Years Day Bean Bag tournament went well, I will have more information on this next month. Hopefully, you were there and participated in this event.

On March 7th, the SAL will be cooking for the Friday night meat raffle. So come on in and grab a Smoked Pulled Pork sandwich, which one of our members will be smoking that day.

The SAL will be cooking breakfast for the members of the Auxiliary on Saturday, February 8th in the Patriot Hall of the Post. If you are a member of the SAL and want to help us with the cooking, please let us know. If you are a member of the Auxiliary, please talk to them to sign up. This is a

WONDERFUL team building event for the Auxiliary and the SAL.

Please mark January 11th on your calendar, this will be a big benefit for Chris McCormick who is in need of some assistance. Most of you know Chris, so come on out and support our family members. March 15th will be the Legion Birthday, St Patrick's Day celebration, and another GREAT SAL meat raffle. Get ready for this always fun event.

It has been a pleasure to see everyone at these events. Just remember that DOC will be playing on January 18th at the Post, another great night it will be.

Our SAL meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month, the next one then is January 21st at 6:30 upstairs, hope to see you there.

See you next time, Paul Quinn SAL Commander



Greetings All! Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our annual **Toy Drop** was incredible! Thank You to everyone who donated and participated in this event. We have such an amazing community and group of people who make this all happen. Special shout out to the Zimmerman Fire Department for partnering with us and to ZBG's for the pizza's. The weather was amazing.

We had a great turn out for the **Auxiliary Holiday Party** on 12/7.

Thanks to everyone who attended. It was lots of fun.

The Army/Navy game was tons of fun. We had a great turnout. **Way to go Navy!**

Our **Poppy Making Class** is scheduled for 1/26 from 12:00 - 3:00 PM. It's filling up fast.

The Auxiliary is serving a hot meal on January 3rd during the meat raffle. Come join us! Let me know if anyone is interested in making a meal on February 7th.

Our 2nd Witches Bus Run is full. Those attending, the bus leaves the Zimmerman Legion at 11:00 AM sharp. Check In starts at 10:30 AM.

The **SAL will be cooking breakfast for the Auxiliary** on February 8th (Saturday) @ 10:00 AM. You're welcome to come early (9:30 AM) for mingling and socializing. Many of us will be dressing in our PJ's if you want to join the fun, but it's not required.

Sign up is required by February 3rd, see link: www.mnpost560.com/auxiliary-breakfast

Next meeting: 1/4 @ 11:00 AM Downstairs - Patriot Hall / We'd love to have you join us.

God Bless!

Donna Schermann – Auxiliary President
donna.schermann@gmail.com 763-213-9017



VOLUNTEERS!!

Wanna keep that Christmas spirit alive all year? Consider volunteering at the St Cloud VA. It's easy to sign up and there are volunteer opportunities from greeting Veterans at the front door and pushing wheelchairs to appointments, Shuttle driving, Hospice, and music just to mention a few. There are often shortages when people go south for the winter. Got questions ask Bob Lundgren or go to "VA St Cloud Healthcare" scroll down and click I want to volunteer" it's that easy and rewarding.

Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date! facebook.com/MnPost560

POST 560 OFFICERS

Commander, Paul McCormick
1st Vice, Sergio Sajjon
2nd Vice, Tom Wilkinson
Adjutant, Bob Lundgren
Sergeant At Arms, Del Whittlef
Chaplain, Frank Grittner
Service Officer, Travis Culbertson
Ron Mathison, Historian
Legion Membership, Bob Lundgren
Auxiliary President,
Donna Schermann
Auxiliary Membership,
Angela Moran
SAL Commander, Paul Quinn
SAL 1st Vice, Mick Wilkinson
SAL Membership, Lance Holk
Bar Manager, Heidi Larcom
Gambling Manager, Laura Lenz
Exec. at Large, Gary Regel &
Gary Lore
Legion Riders Director, Loren Sikkink



Meetings & Events

January 2025

04 - Auxiliary Meeting 11:00 am
08 - General Membership Meeting 6:30 pm
11 - Benefit for Chris McCormick 1:00 pm
14 - Rider Meeting 7:00 pm
21 - SAL Meeting 6:30 pm
22 - Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm
25 - Rider Gun Bingo at
Station 1 Event Center at 11:00 am
26 - Poppy Making Class 12 - 3:00 pm
31 - Auxiliary Witches Run - 11:00 am

February 2025

01 - Auxiliary Meeting 11:00 am
11 - Rider Meeting 7:00 pm
12 - General Membership Meeting 6:30 pm
18 - SAL Meeting 6:30 pm
26 - Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm

MONDAY NIGHT BINGO & RACES

Guaranteed \$700 Coverall! Races at 5pm Bingo at 6pm!

BAR HOURS

Monday-Thursday 11:00 am - 11:00 pm
Friday & Saturday 11:00 am - 1:00 am
Sundays 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

GAMBLING BOOTH HOURS

Monday-Saturday 11:00 am - close
Sunday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Pilot E-Tabs and Pull Tabs in Booth! Open Daily at 11:00 AM!



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ZIMMERMAN, MN
PERMIT #7

LEGIONNAIRE 560
Kriesel-Jacobsen American Legion Post 560
12674 Fremont Ave.
PO Box 123
Zimmerman MN 55398